

Talking Points
CTC/TAB
27 April 1987

Terrorist Attack Attack in Athens

The indigenous Greek terrorist group Revolutionary Organization 17 November claimed credit for the 24 April bombing of a Greek military bus in which 17 US personnel were injured--one critically. [REDACTED]

25X1

--The bus was on a regularly scheduled run from the Greek military base at Elefsis to the US Air Force base at Hellenikon in Athens. There were approximately 25 US Army personnel and dependents on board. [REDACTED]

25X1

--Preliminary analysis (type of device, method of construction, placement and initiation) indicates that the bomb was designed to cause a maximum number of casualties. [REDACTED]

25X1

17 November is believed to be a sub-group of Revolutionary People's Struggle (ELA)--a loosely organized umbrella group of anti-US, anti-NATO leftist Greek terrorist organizations. ELA is believed responsible for over 250 bombings, firebombings or cases of arson since 1974, including a car bomb attack in July 1985 on the Apollon Palace hotel in Athens--which was used as a barracks for transient US personnel--and an attempted bombing of the Nea Makri Naval Communications Station near Athens. [REDACTED]

25X1

17 November generally employs small hit teams to murder at pointblank range poorly defended symbolically important Greeks and Americans. The group killed CIA station chief Richard Welch in December 1975 and US Navy Captain George Tsantes in November 1983, and wounded US Army M. Sgt. Robert Judd in April 1984. But the group also carried out a bombing of a Greek police bus in November 1985 that closely resembles last week's attack. [REDACTED]

25X1

--In the November 85 attack a 70 meter cable extended from the explosive device to a 12 volt battery with a home-made switch that was connected to the circuit. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

In its communique, 17 November claimed its action was aimed at "fighting American imperialism," described US troops in Greece as "occupation forces" and threatened more violence. [REDACTED]

25X1
25X1

25X1